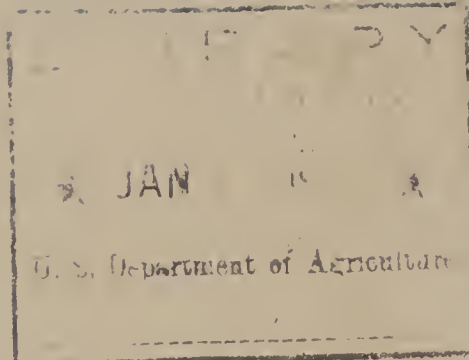


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## THE FARM CALENDAR

A radio talk delivered by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, through Station WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, December 26, 1929.

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### Cutting and Marketing Farm Timber

Farm woodlands have paid off many a farm mortgage, say the specialists of the Forest Service. If you have timber in the farm woodlands to sell, first make a careful estimate of the amount which you wish to dispose of, then study your markets thoroughly and lay out a working plan before you make the sale. This is the time of the year to cut timber, as it seasons better than if cut when the trees are growing. In addition, if the timber is cut during the fall or winter months there will be a more healthy and vigorous growth of sprouts from hardwood stumps. When you cut your timber, cut with an eye to its continuous production and to keep the land producing timber of the best quality.

Do not cut everything that is saleable, but always leave several seed-producing trees per acre and plenty of young trees as a foundation for another crop of timber.

Timber as a farm crop should generally comprise only rough timber products, such as sawlogs, poles, pilings, hewed crossties, and cordwood. Keep out of the saw mill business. The average farmer should be a producer and not as a rule a manufacturer of timber products.

Any of you who contemplate selling timber should study your markets thoroughly and get prices from as many buyers and wood using plants as possible. You may be able to sell your timber to best advantage on the stump or it may pay you to cut it and deliver it to the mill or railroad.

Remember that good standing timber can wait over a period of low prices without serious loss, so take advantage of this and sell when prices are favorable. Be sure that you are selling to responsible purchasers and use a written agreement, especially if the cutting is done by the purchasers. Where you cut the timber yourself or have it cut under your direct supervision, it is possible to carefully protect the remaining timber and above all clean up the woodland following the cutting of marketable timber so as to reduce the fire hazard.

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On Tuesday, I mentioned the fact that we import over \$50,000,000 worth of linen goods annually. Flax from which linen is made can be grown in several of our Northwestern States.

### Flax and Grain Mixtures

The four States of Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Montana, grow about 97 per cent of all the flax grown in the United States. In recent years

many farmers in these States have adopted the practice of sowing a mixture of flax with wheat, oats, or barley. I have often wondered, says Dr. Spillman, whether this is good practice. For some years past, the Department in cooperation with the experiment stations in the flax growing States, has been trying this out. The results of these experiments are given in Technical Bulletin No. 133, which has just become available. In most of the experiments a mixture of flax with wheat or oats gives a slightly greater total yield per acre of the two crops than was obtained by sowing half the area to each crop alone. If you want to study the results in more detail get a copy of Technical Bulletin No. 133, the title of which is - "Flax Cropping in Mixture with Wheat, Oats and Barley."

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#### Crimson Clover

A long time ago the Department issued a Farmers' Bulletin on Crimson Clover. A hint as to the age of this bulletin may be had from the fact that the man who wrote it went to Hawaii as Director of the Hawaiian Experiment Station in 1914. Interest in crimson clover still prevails in a large part of the Atlantic coast and eastern central portion of the United States, however, and if you are interested in crimson clover as an important winter cover crop to prevent the leaching and washing of your soils you should have a copy of this bulletin in your book case. It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 5- 7- 9 entitled "Crimson Clover."

By the way, I wonder how many of you have a regular system of keeping your reference bulletins. I note that many people when they receive a bulletin, read it, place it to one side and later have difficulty in locating it. My plan for keeping bulletins is to punch two holes in the bound edges and tie them together with a piece of tape or a shoe string. After I have 12 or 15 bulletins tied together in this manner, I bind them with book covers which may be secured for a few cents apair at the bookstore. On the outside of the cover I paste a slip of paper on which is noted the bulletins that are in the binding. In this way the bulletins do not become lost and I can refer to them at any time when I want to refresh my mind on any particular subject.

A check-up shows that many persons ask for the same bulletin year after year and this leads us to believe that many of the bulletins become lost around the house and can not be found when the time of the year comes around for the use of the information. Binders can also be made by pasting cloth on cardboard. If you have no punch with which to make the holes in the bulletins place several of them together, clamp them in a vice and bore the holes with a small drill such as is used for drilling metal.